

Welcome

Franklin School Committee Minutes

April 14, 2009

Call to order: 7:00 p.m. Mr. Roy

Pledge of Allegiance:

A 5th grader from the Kennedy School recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mrs. Armenio, Mr. Cafasso, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Rohrbach, and FHS representatives Brittany MacLeod and Pat Slight were present. Also present were Superintendent Wayne Ogden, Assistant Superintendent Maureen Sabolinski, and other invited guests. Mrs. Trahan was not in attendance.

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

· Citizens Comments: None

· Review of Agenda: No additional items

· Minutes:

I recommend approval of the minutes from the March 24, 2009 School Committee Meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Mullen Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

· Payment of Bills: Mr. Kelly

Motion: Mr. Kelly Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approve: 6 Absent: 1

· Payroll:

Mrs. Armenio reviewed the payroll, found it to be in order and recommended acceptance.

· FHS Student Representatives:

Pat Slight reported that the Junior Prom would be held on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. This week report cards are going out, and graduation for the seniors will be June 5th. He also mentioned that students have raised \$5,000 for a newly started fund, the Iraq Memorial Fund. Brittany MacLeod reported that the senior exams start on May 27th. This Friday, April 10th, will be the last day to pay for

cap and gowns. The amount due is \$40. This is also the first year seniors participated in the Senior Project. Interested seniors would write a proposal, pick a workplace they are interested in working at, interview with the company and then start working for that company. At the end, they need to turn in an 8-12 page paper. Ms. MacLeod mentioned that she is working for TJX Corporate.

· Correspondence:

1. Mr. Roy acknowledged the Budget to Actual Report and Budget Transfers received from Mrs. Goodman.
2. Mr. Roy acknowledged the letters from Mark Tiede, Melissa McCann and the Doggett Family.

2. Guests/Presentations:

a. Best Buddies, which enhances the lives of people with developmental disabilities by providing one-on-one friendships, has three chapters in the Franklin Public Schools: Horace Mann Middle School, Annie Sullivan Middle School and Franklin High School. Mark and Sue Streeter from Best Buddies, presented nine grants to these chapters for various activities such as the Best Buddies Prom, an afternoon at Ficcoco's and Funway Café, and Pawtucket Red Sox tickets.

b. FHS Experience – Information for Summer 2009: Pandora Carlucci, Kristy Yankee and Kristin Letendre Cerce spoke to the Committee regarding the FHS Experience. The FHS Experience is intended as a socialization experience for incoming freshman as a way to become acquainted with the High School, meet teachers, and learn academic strategies. Current freshman that participated in last summer's pilot program, have provided positive feedback about their experience. It is Pandora, Kristy and Kristin's hope to see all incoming freshman participate in this program in the future.

c. ASMS "To Kill a Mockingbird" Presentation: Several students from the Annie Sullivan Middle School presented the Committee with a presentation on this novel. Mr. Ogden noted that this novel used to be part of the High School curriculum. After a yearlong debate, it was decided that it should become part of the 8th grade curriculum.

3. Discussion Only Items:

· FY10 Budget: Chandler Creedon, President of the Franklin Education Association, told the Committee that he would like to meet with them as soon as possible to discuss the Association's ideas on saving \$1 million (20 teaching positions). He was reluctant to talk about it in an open forum. Mr. Roy asked Mr. Creedon if he had anything for them in writing. Mr. Creedon proceeded to hand out a packet to the Committee. Mr. Roy mentioned that the Committee had an Executive Session scheduled for the end of the meeting, and would discuss it amongst themselves then. He would then get back to Mr. Creedon in the morning.

Mr. Cafasso asked about the vote that occurred amongst the teachers regarding freezing their salaries. Mr. Creedon said only that a meeting was held on April 13th and that they came up with what they felt was a reasonable budget to save 20 teaching positions. Mrs. Armenio, who sits on the Budget Sub-Committee, said that she never saw any proposals presented to the Budget Sub-Committee from the Association about proposed cost savings, and did not like the portrayal in the local papers that the Committee was ignoring such proposals.

On a different note, Mrs. Rohrbach, who is also on the Budget Sub-Committee, comprised a list of reductions that have occurred over the last six years, since 2003. She mentioned the elimination of Health, Guidance, French and the reduction of gym and Spanish at the elementary level. She also noted how we have tried to protect class sizes over the years, but that we started seeing a dramatic increase last year, and will possibly see the same next year. She also mentioned that anything that has been cut, has not come back.

Mrs. Mullen mentioned that we have cut everywhere possible and also raised fees. Now we are at the point where we are asking teachers to freeze their salaries. She acknowledged that we couldn't ask them to do this year after year. We need more permanent solutions to the problems in front of us.

Mrs. Rohrbach ended by acknowledging the PCC's that raise about \$120,000/year for field trips.

4. Action Items:

1. I recommend acceptance of the donation of \$3,127.00 from the Davis Thayer PCC for the following field trips:

- Grade 5 – Boston “Lessons on Liberty” & “Bostonian Society”
- Grade 2 – Stony Brook
- Grade K – Southwicks Zoo
- Grade 5 – Bus fee for visit to ASMS

Motion: Mrs. Armenio Second: Mrs. Mullen

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

2. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 20 Bose 3-2-1 GS Home Entertainment Systems (valued at \$999.00 each) for the Franklin Public Schools.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mr. Ogden mentioned that two systems would be distributed to each school.

3. I recommend acceptance of the donation of office supplies from the 3M

Company as listed for the Franklin Public Schools.
Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

4. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$412.80 from Lifetouch for the ECDC future enrichment programs.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$4,900.00 from the Keller PCC for the following field trips

- Grade K – Southwicks Zoo, plus buses
- Grade 2 – Stony Brook, plus buses
- Grade 4 – Museum of Science, plus buses
- Grade 5 – Roger Williams Zoo, plus buses

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

6. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$75.00 from the Keller PCC for an additional bus for the K field trip to Southwicks Zoo.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

7. I recommend acceptance of the donation of 12 cases of copy paper for the Oak Street Elementary School from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Johnson.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

8. I recommend acceptance of the donation of several gently used trade books from Kristen Ramel, a 5th grade student, for the Oak Street teachers.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

9. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$250.00 from the Parmenter PCC for a bus for a field trip to the Mass Hospital School in Canton, MA.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mrs. Mullen commented that this is a wonderful field trip.

10. I recommend the request of Peter Light to declare the attached list of books as surplus.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio
Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mr. Ogden mentioned that whatever books can be sold, will be; and what

cannot, will be donated to a charitable organization.

11. I recommend approval of the FHS request for Judi O'Neil to take 8 students to Los Angeles, CA to compete in the DECA 2009 International Conference as detailed.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

Mrs. Rohrbach wondered if it was possible to amend the motion to include more than one chaperone. The motion was approved as amended.

12. I recommend acceptance of the check for \$200.00 from C.A.N.E (Classical Association of New England – grant) for expenses related to HMMS field trip to the Worcester Art Museum.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

13. I recommend acceptance of the check for \$1,488.56 from the Oak Street PCC for reading materials for all students/classrooms to access.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

14. I recommend acceptance of the donation of space at the Hampton Inn for Open Circle Training in 2008-09 valued at \$1,200.00 (4 days @ \$300/day).

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

15. I recommend that you declare the modular classrooms at Davis Thayer Elementary School as surplus and return them to the Town.

Motion: Mrs. Rohrbach Second: Mrs. Armenio

Approval: 6 Absent: 1

5. Information Matters:

· Superintendent's Report:

a. Enrollment Comparison: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

b. Draft of 2009-10 FHS Administrative Structure: This was not discussed at this evening's meeting.

c. FY11 School Calendar Options: Mrs. Sabolinski provided the Committee with two calendars for the FY11 school year. The first calendar shows school starting before Labor Day and ending on June 17th (not including snow days). The second calendar shows school starting after Labor Day and ending on June 22nd (not including snow days). It should be noted that with the latter option, Labor Day falls on September 6th, the latest that it can ever fall. Mrs. Sabolinski recommends keeping the start of the school year before Labor Day,

but noted that it is up to the Committee to make the final decision.

Mr. Cafasso suggested putting both calendars on-line so that parents could see them. Mrs. Mullen noted that it is more typical to be affected by the heat in late June when the body is not as accustomed to the heat, than in late August when the body is more acclimated to the hot conditions. She also recommended that if Labor Day falls late, start the school year before the holiday, and if Labor Day is early, start after the holiday.

It was noted by Mr. Roy that there is no Professional Development Day slated for Election Day. For the safety of the students, he would like to see that changed. Also, it was suggested that we could move one Professional Development day before the official start of school, after staff are required to return to school.

d. 09-10 School Committee Schedule – Draft: This was not discussed at this evening’s meeting.

e. Blue Ribbon: Financial Planning Committee: Mr. Ogden mentioned that the meeting will be on April 27th and urged people to attend.

f. Special Facilities Review – Confidential: This was not discussed at this evening’s meeting.

· School Committee Sub-Committee Reports:

o Mr. Cafasso mentioned that the Advertising Sub-Committee met earlier in the evening. There are ten banners on display at the Field House and the Committee is impressed with that number. The Committee would like to continue with this in hopes that when the economy turns around, more businesses will choose to advertise.

o Mr. Cafasso also noted that EdNets is on hold for now. There are some issues that need to be ironed out during a meeting with the principals.

o Mr. Kelly, along with Mr. Ogden, reminded everyone about the Financial Planning Committee meeting that will be held on April 27th and urged members from the community to attend.

· School Committee Liaison Reports: No new information discussed at this time.

6. New Business:

· It was mentioned that the Strategic Planning survey would be going out on April 27th with a return date of May 12th.

7. Executive Session:

· Contractual Negotiations

8. Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker